



***St. John's United Church of Christ
Chambersburg, PA
April 13, 2025***

PALM SUNDAY: BREAD FOR THE ROAD

*Please stand in body or in spirit

GATHERING SONG

"This is the Day"

UNISON WELCOME

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

from Bread of Life

People of St. John's, Chambersburg, bring your garments and branches – Jesus is coming into town! Shout Hosanna!

Hosanna! Our deliverer has come! Let all the hungry be fed!

Jesus, the servant king, has come to show us a new kind of power.

Hosanna! Our liberator will set the prisoners free!

Let us worship the one who will save us from corruption.

Shout Hosanna to the King of Kings!

Hosanna! Hosanna! The bread of life has come to sustain us.

Believing this promise, let us worship together!

***HYMN #176**

"With Waving Palms and Shouts of Praise"

***OPENING PRAYER**

from Bread of Life

Holy God, we gather on this Palm Sunday and find ourselves in solidarity with the crowds who shouted for salvation. We know our needs, both individually and collectively. Our hunger for righteousness and justice compels us to proclaim, "Hosanna! Save us!" two thousand years later. As we begin this journey toward the cross, from admiration to despair, we know we are well-nourished for the path ahead. You have prepared us, fed us with love and truth, and refreshed our spirits throughout the Lenten season. Let us carry the spirit of Hosanna in our hearts, ready to serve and love, knowing the journey continues toward resurrection and renewal. May the bread we break, both physical and spiritual, remind us of your presence in every step. Guide us on this path and sustain us for the work ahead. Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Beneath the mantle of peace, Jesus, the bread of life, provides a bounty of fellowship, care, and connection. May the peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Take a moment to greet others with the peace of Christ, which inspires us to care for the needs of our community.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

from Bread of Life

God who provides, we give thanks for those who labor in the fields to provide the food that sustains us. We lift up farmers and agricultural workers, praying for their strength and safety as they work long hours in challenging conditions. We ask for your protection and wisdom for those facing unpredictable weather, climate change, and economic hardship. May they find support and resources to continue their essential work. May we all recognize the interconnectedness of our world and the need for justice in the ways we care for the earth. We commit to honoring the labor of those who grow our food and advocate for policies that ensure all people have access to what they need to thrive. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

RESPONSIVE READING

"Palm Sunday" by Malcolm Guite

Now to the gate of my Jerusalem, The seething holy city of my heart, The Saviour comes.
But will I welcome him?

Oh, crowds of easy feelings make a start; They raise their hands, get caught up in the singing, And think the battle won.

Too soon they'll find The challenge, the reversal he is bringing Changes their tune.

I know what lies behind The surface flourish that so quickly fades; self-interest and fearful guardedness, the hardness of the heart, its barricades,
And at the core, the dreadful emptiness Of a perverted temple.

Jesus, come Break my resistance and make me your home.

ANTHEM

"Hosanna, Hosanna!"

Martin/Williams

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Roxanne Davenport

Children's Corner will be offered following the Children's Message

SCRIPTURE READING

John 12:12-16; Luke 19:28-40

SERMON

Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS)

INVITATION TO GIVING

OFFERTORY

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" v. 4

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine
demands my soul, my life, my all.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

adapted from Bread of Life

Gracious God who saves, we bring our gifts to you. We offer our time, talents, and resources for your work in the world, in communities near and far, local and global. May these gifts be a sign of our trust in you, and may they nourish your mission of love, justice, and hope for all. Amen.

***HYMN**

"Jesus Rode Into the City" (insert)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

from Bread of Life (on screen)

***CHARGE & BLESSING**

from Bread of Life

POSTLUDE (seated)

The "Nursery Nook in the Narthex" quiet area and infant/toddler space in the Parlor are available for children and families to use during worship. Age-appropriate activity bags are also available.

Birthdays this week: 4/15 Katie Boyer; 4/20 Nancy Gaal

Worship Participants:	
Pastor	Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
Organist	Barbara Motichka
Deacon in Charge	Diana Kongkeattikul
Lector	Judy Hodges
Children's Corner	Roxanne Davenport
Media Coordinators	Calvin Frantz
Bulletin cover	Edd Scheer

The Flowers at the Foot of the Cross are given in memory of Jeryl C. "Jerry" Miller by his wife Cookie, sons Chip and Jon and their families.



St. John's Vision

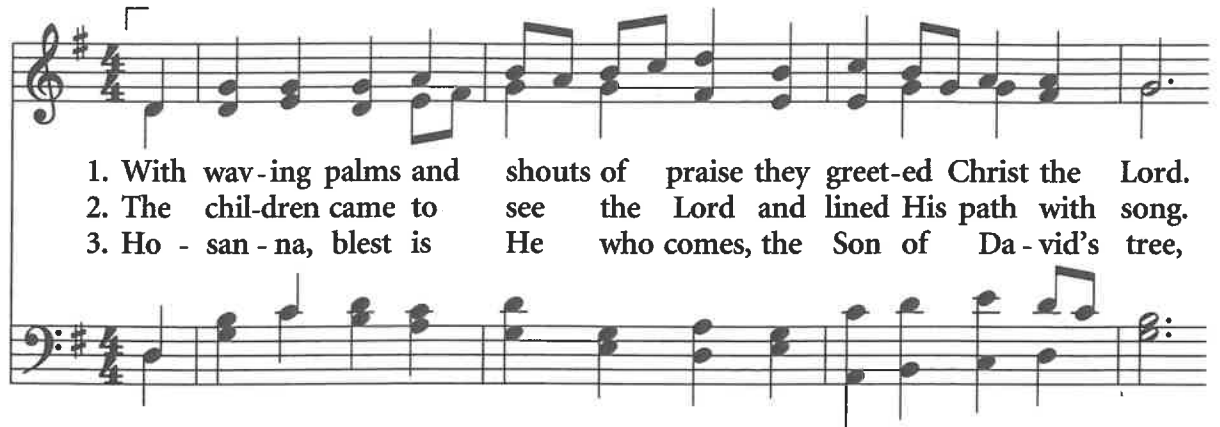
We are called to love, to learn, to worship and to witness in Christ as a congregation that welcomes everyone, and seeks service that will advance God's realm on earth.

St. John's Mission

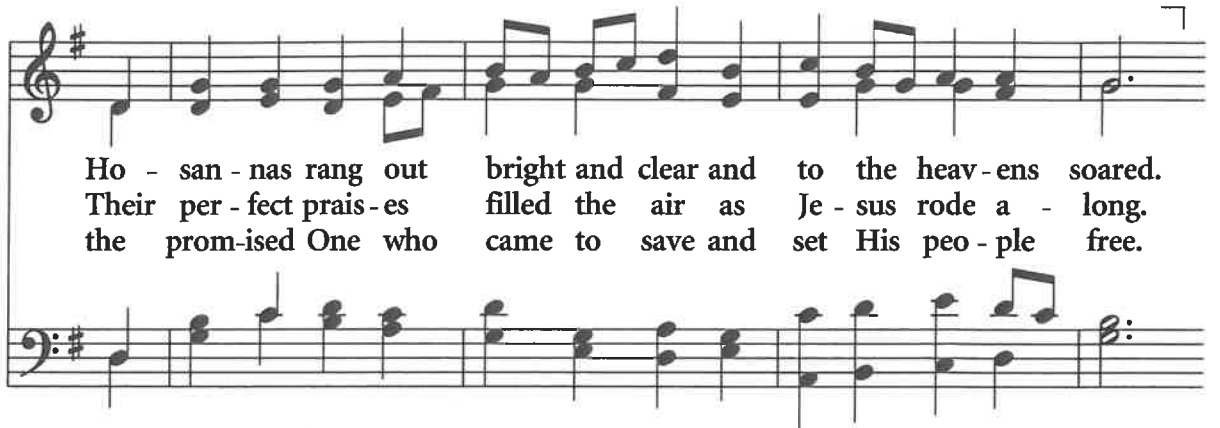
To grow in love of God and neighbor

Worship Resources: *"Palm Sunday" by Malcolm Guite, included in The Word in the Wilderness: A Poem a Day for Lent and Easter by Malcolm Guite*
"Bread of Life" Lenten liturgy & commentary © 2025 Illustrated Ministry

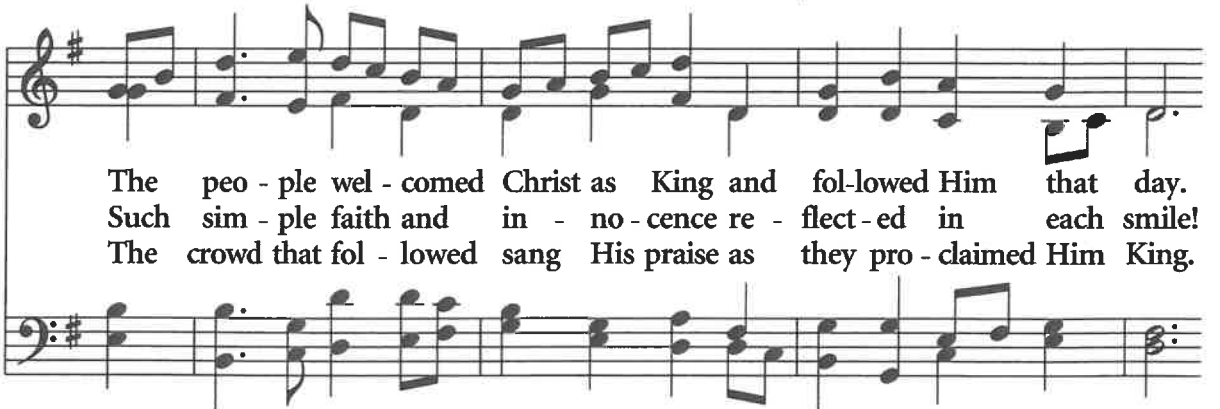
With Waving Palms and Shouts of Praise 176



1. With wav-ing palms and shouts of praise they greet-ed Christ the Lord.
 2. The chil-dren came to see the Lord and lined His path with song.
 3. Ho - san - na, blest is He who comes, the Son of Da - vid's tree,



Ho - san - nas rang out bright and clear and to the heav-ens soared.
 Their per - fect prais-es filled the air as Je - sus rode a - long.
 the prom-ised One who came to save and set His peo - ple free.



The peo - ple wel - comed Christ as King and fol-lowed Him that day.
 Such sim - ple faith and in - no - cence re - flect-ed in each smile!
 The crowd that fol - lowed sang His praise as they pro - claimed Him King.



May we learn to be wel - com - ing, and fol - low in His way.
 May we aim to be pure in heart and faith-ful as a child.
 May we, with spir - it and with mind, our an - thems glad - ly sing.

WORDS: Jan McGuire, 2008 (John 12:12-13)

MUSIC: English folk song; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

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FOREST GREEN

CMD

Lower key, No. 19

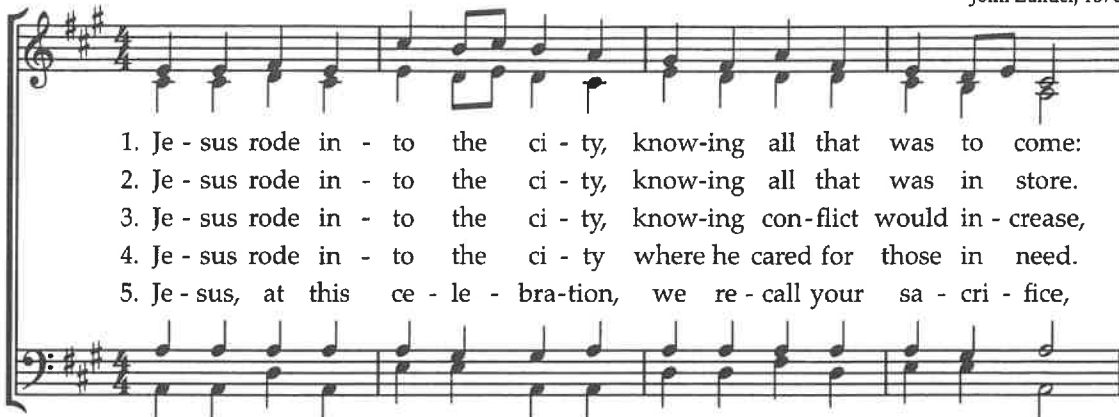
Jesus Rode into the City

In honor of Gloria Crum's many years of service at St. John's United Church of Christ in Chambersburg, PA

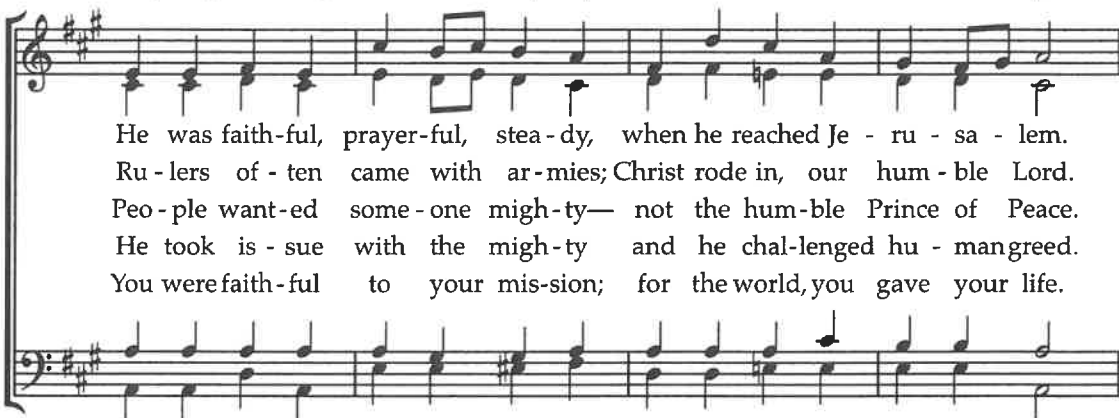
Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2023

Beecher

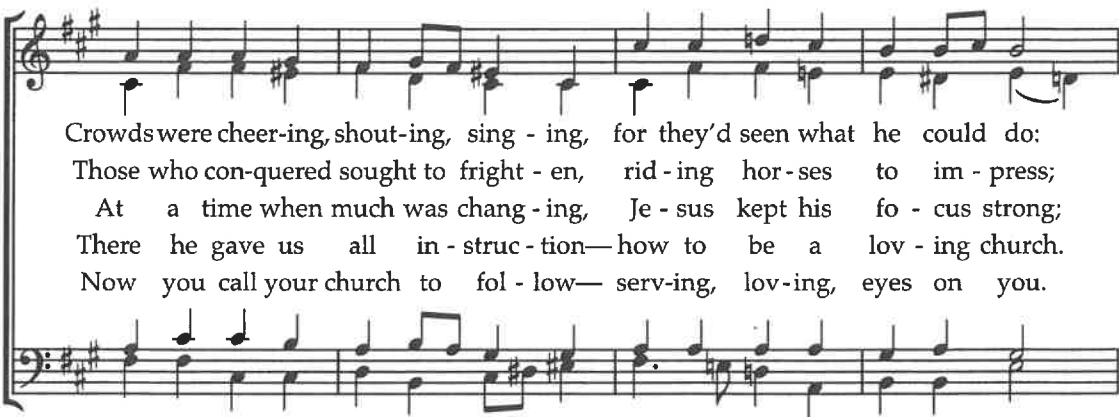
John Zundel, 1870



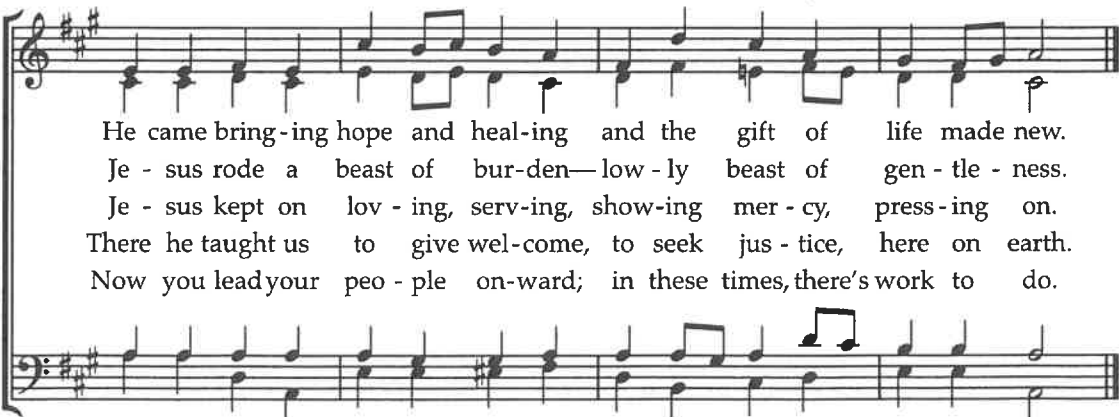
1. Je - sus rode in - to the ci - ty, know-ing all that was to come:
2. Je - sus rode in - to the ci - ty, know-ing all that was in store.
3. Je - sus rode in - to the ci - ty, know-ing con-flict would in - crease,
4. Je - sus rode in - to the ci - ty where he cared for those in need.
5. Je - sus, at this ce - le - bra-tion, we re - call your sa - cri - fice,



He was faith-ful, prayer-ful, stea-dy, when he reached Je - ru - sa - lem.
Ru - lers of - ten came with ar-mies; Christ rode in, our hum - ble Lord.
Peo - ple want-ed some - one migh-ty— not the hum-ble Prince of Peace.
He took is - sue with the migh-ty and he chal-lenged hu - mangreed.
You were faith-ful to your mis-sion; for the world, you gave your life.



Crowds were cheer-ing, shout-ing, sing - ing, for they'd seen what he could do:
Those who con-quer-ed sought to fright - en, rid - ing hor - ses to im - press;
At a time when much was chang - ing, Je - sus kept his fo - cus strong;
There he gave us all in - struc - tion—how to be a lov - ing church.
Now you call your church to fol - low— serv-ing, lov-ing, eyes on you.



He came bring-ing hope and heal-ing and the gift of life made new.
Je - sus rode a beast of bur-den—low - ly beast of gen - tle - ness.
Je - sus kept on lov - ing, serv-ing, show-ing mer - cy, press - ing on.
There he taught us to give wel - come, to seek jus - tice, here on earth.
Now you lead your peo - ple on - ward; in these times, there's work to do.

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New Hymns: www.carolynshymns.com | Email: carolynshymns@gmail.com

NEWS IN THE PEWS April 13, 2025

The Rev. Caroline E. Saxton, pastor@sjucc1811.org (641) 260-1868 (cell)
Tonya Schwartz, Office Administrator, manager@sjucc1811.org (717) 263-8593 (office)
Gary Crum, Music Director | Barbara Motichka, Organist
Roxanne Davenport, Director of Children & Youth
The Rev. Stephen W. Hoffman, Pastor Emeritus

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

TODAY: Hope House Dedication Event, Menno Haven Life Center, 3 pm
Bible Study on the Book of Daniel, 8 pm, Zoom (link in Friday e-blast)

Monday, April 14

10:00 am Meditation Class – Parlor Room 104
1:30 pm "Jesus is the Question" Book Study (chapter 13) – Conference Room 111
6:00 Sun Catcher Craft Night – Room 202
7:00 pm Boy Scouts – Fellowship Hall
7:30 pm Community Engagement Committee Meeting – Zoom

Tuesday, April 15

5:30 pm Yoga – Room 202
6:00 pm Ladies Bible Study – Zoom
6:45 pm Amistad Praise Band Rehearsal – Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, April 16

11:30 am Ladies' Luncheon – Fiesta Maya

Thursday, April 17

6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice- Choir Room 103
7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service – Fellowship Hall
7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal- Choir Room 103

Friday, April 18

12:00 pm Good Friday Worship Service – Central Presbyterian Church

Saturday, April 19

9:00 – 11:00 am Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser – Fellowship Hall
10:00 am Community Easter Egg Hunt – Church Lawn

Sunday, April 20

No children's or adult church school classes; Happy Easter!
9:15 am Easter Egg Hunt – Playground Entrance
10:00 am Easter Sunday Service – Sanctuary

Holy Week Worship St. John's will hold a Maundy Thursday service of Tenebrae on April 17 at 7 pm in Fellowship Hall. All are encouraged to attend the Community Good Friday service on April 18 at noon held at Central Presbyterian Church. Our Easter Sunday worship will be held at 10 am in the Sanctuary; the service will also be livestreamed.

Easter Monday The Church Office will be closed on Monday, April 21 in observance of Easter. Pastor Caroline will be available via phone/text for pastoral emergencies.

Holy Humor Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, April 27. This service is designed to tap into the lighter side of our faith. Don't forget to bring your jokes!

Book Study The Monday afternoon book study will resume on Monday, April 27 at 1:30 pm. An announcement of our next selection will be in the News in the Pews and e-blast next week.

Birthday Balloons All are invited to share in a special coffee hour the last Sunday of the month to honor all who celebrated a birthday that month. It was a joy to celebrate March birthdays on March 30. Our next "birthday celebration" for April birthdays will be on Sunday, April 27.

Sunday Night Bible Study Join Pastor Caroline on Sunday evenings at **8 pm via Zoom** for a Bible study on the book of Daniel. Our session on **April 13** will focus on Daniel Chapter 6. Participants are encouraged to read from a variety of translations; Pastor Caroline will be using the Common English Bible. Zoom Meeting ID: 836 0593 5961 and Passcode 277938. A hyperlink for this opportunity will be included in the weekly e-blast.

Lenten Projects We will dedicate our Lenten Project donations on **Palm Sunday, April 13.**

Pancake Breakfast and Community Egg Hunt will be Saturday, April 19. The breakfast will be from 9 to 11 am (suggested donation of \$8). The children's egg hunt will be at 10 am. All proceeds will be used to support SCCAP.

Make a Suncatcher Craft night on Monday, April 14, 6 pm in room 202. Sign up at the Welcome Center or by calling the church office. \$15/person; no need to pay in advance. Contact Susan Collier, Chani Wolfe, or Tena Keeney with any questions.

Join us for Life Talk What's on your mind? Something that concerns or worries you? Do you need to vent? Just want to talk with other adults for a bit? Don't want to share in front of the entire congregation? Or you don't think it really needs to be a prayer request? Grab your snack and coffee, and meet in the parlor after services on Sunday mornings for about 15 to 20 minutes. Anyone and everyone is welcome.

Bible and a Beer is an opportunity to talk about our faith in public. Join us on the 3rd Monday of the month at the Trojan Diner at 6:30 pm. Our next gathering will be April 21.